Pre-Class History Assessment

Please answer the questions below in pencil on the purple scan sheet. Please put your name on the sheets. Your name will be used to assign a number to your pre-test and post-test; your name and your answers will be kept confidential. Your instructor will only receive the tabulated results for the entire class, correlated by the randomly assigned number.

Do not worry if you have difficulty with any of the items. We are conducting a study of the way that college students learn history, not measuring your knowledge. Your thoughtful response to the following questions will help us teach history better in the future.

1) How many college history classes have you previously taken?
   a) 0
   b) 1
   c) 2
   d) 3 or more

2) What is your year in college?
   a) Freshman
   b) Sophomore
   c) Junior
   d) Senior

3) What is your major? (If undecided, leave blank.)
   a) History
   b) Humanities (English, Languages, Arts, etc.)
   c) Business, SPEA, Education, or other Professional Program
   d) Natural Science or Math
   e) Political Science, Economics, or other Social Sciences

4) When you have two historical sources that conflict, how do you use them in a paper?
   a) I follow the one that makes the most sense because it is more likely to be right
   b) I include information from each one to make sure I’m not missing anything
   c) I figure out why the sources conflict and include that in my paper
   d) I select the information from each that matches the historical context
   e) I decide which one is right and use that one in my paper

5) How do you analyze a first-hand account of a historical event?
   a) Focus primarily on the facts contained in the document.
   b) Ask questions such as who created it, when, and why
c) Decide whether it provides a true account of what happens
d) Stick to what the document tells you
e) Gather all the written sources you can find

6) Faced with diametrically opposed opinions of two individuals in the same historical period, my task is to:

   a) Pay more attention to the one that is closer to the course topics
   b) Judge which position is correct
   c) Concentrate on the ways that the two positions are really the same
   d) Just present the conflict as it is
   e) Understand why each individual might have thought in his/her way

7) When you are asked to identify an author's argument in a history essay or book you:

   a) Describe what the piece of writing is about
   b) Determine what position the author is advocating
   c) Identify the sources the author used
   d) Summarize the contents of the writing
   e) All of the above

8) What influence does the past have upon what happens in the present?
   ---Write your answer on the back of your scantron in INK.